

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

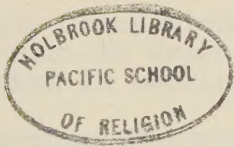
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NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

A national holiday observing February 11 as Founding Day in Japan is being considered by the Diet. Concerned Christian people are requesting a reconsideration of this possibility, as this holiday will have religious significance and is not in accord with Article 20 of the Constitution which guarantees freedom of faith. Both The United Church of Christ in Japan and the National Christian Council sent a statement to Prime Minister Ikeda, the chairmen of the upper and lower houses of the Diet, cabinet members and newspapers. Another holiday under discussion is Obon Day, July 15, when, according to Buddhist teachings, the spirits return to earth.

PROTEST AGAINST STATIONING OF F-105'S IN JAPAN'S WATERS

At the 13th General Assembly of the Kyushu District of the Kyodan held May 14-15 at the Chubu Church in Fukuoka, it was decided to send a statement to Colonel W.E. Back, commander of combat and strategy force; the Base Commander, J.R. Roche and Ambassador Reischauer to protest against the Stationing of F-105 Fighter Bombers at the Itazuke Air Force Base and nuclear submarines at Saseho harbor.

The statement said that Christians, looking toward world peace, cannot allow the United States to promote these plans;

The General Assembly of the Kyushu District of the United Church of Christ in Japan wishes to go on record as being strongly opposed to these plans.

CHRISTIANS LIVING IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

This is the title of a book published by the Kyodan Press, Tokyo, Japan; it sells for ¥230. In its book review section, the Yomiuri Newspaper for June 2, 1963, had this to say:

"This is a handbook edited by the Occupational Evangelism Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan for the use of those making evangelistic approaches in working places.

"There are presentations by various writers about Bible study groups in the working place; about Center activities; Concentration Mass Meeting; and of Labor Gospel Schools. It is really worth reading.

"These writers put the serious question to present-day Christinity in Japan which has been so much tainted by a middle-class and intelligentsia character, asking whether Japanese Christians are conscious of the responsibility of mission toward the working class and their community."

SUMMER ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Christian young people of Japan have chosen a worthwhile summer project. They are to visit the depressed coalmining areas of Hokkaido and Kyushu from August 3 to August 18 and will be working with children of miners unemployed due to the closing of several of the mines. Since 1959 college and university students have been working with underprivileged children in the areas of teaching, extra curricular activities, physical training and hygiene. This year 120 students taking part in this summer experience come from Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, Aoyama Gakuin, International Christian University, Meiji Gakuin, Tokyo Woman's Christian College, Toyo Eiwa, Doshisha, Kansei Gakuin, Seiwa and Keisen Girl's School. Forming in 12 groups of ten in each group, the students will live in the vacant houses in the coalmining areas.

As the number of students interested in this kind of summer work increases, the budget also increases. Each school raised the necessary money for the expenses of its own participants, but they still need ¥500,000. One minister in Kyushu, Rev. Dangiro Hattori bought 50 chickens and distributed them to unemployed miners, encouraging them to raise chickens and sell them, as well as the eggs, for profit. News of this summer venture will be forth-coming at a later date.

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JAPAN CHURCH WORLD SERVICE WORK CAMP

The sixth annual work camp at Okunakayama, Japan Church World Service Rural Center, began July 15. The orientation meeting for Tokyo area students and foreign students was held on July 4, with explanation of the center's purpose given by the Reverend Kentaro Buma, Director, and Mr. Hajime Ogawa, Associate Director. The work camp program was outlined by Dr. Robert Northup, Director of the work camp for the second year.

In a land of spiraling prices and gigantic forward strides in economic production, the agricultural areas continue to be critical places in Japan. The rural center, located in the Tibet of Japan, aims to encourage new types of farming, disseminate agricultural know how, give practical aid through the loan of machinery and the services of a capable veterinarian.

The 34 Japanese and United States students, representing 19 colleges and universities, live together at the center for 3 weeks. The main labor project will be sharing farm work under the direction of pioneer farmers, setting up a day nursery for their children, work at the center and road repair. Evenings are spent in Bible study, discussion and recreation.

JAPAN BIBLE SEMINARY CHOOSES SECOND PRESIDENT

The Japan Bible Seminary (Night School) has announced that its Board of Trustees has recommended unanimously the name of Reverend Gosaku Okada to succeed the Reverend Tameichiro Kanai, the first president who died recently. This Tokyo minister has accepted the post with the permission of the United Church and his own local church which is a unit within the Kyoden.

NEW EDITORS FOR CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

During the time that Mr. Ronald G. Korver is on furlough, his work on Japan Christian Activity News will be taken over by Miss Umeko Kagawa and Miss Dorothy Burt. Miss Kagawa is in Japan to continue the work of her father, the late Reverend Toyohiko Kagawa. Miss Burt has been loaned to the Interboard Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan by the Board of World Missions of the Reformed Church in America to direct the work of Overseas Publicity while Miss Helen Post, the permanent director is in Japanese language school.

